

Serial No.: 09/847,632
Amendment and Response to Office Action
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 23, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: 33997.0036

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) In a The microscope according to claim 1, wherein said having a non-scanning illumination device for illuminating a subject over a field of view by directing light along an illumination beam path through a main objective of said microscope or in a region of a main objective of said microscope, and a plurality of optical components which includes an assembly of optical elements in said illumination beam path which diffract or refract the light, the improvement comprising:

and said a mechanism for removing removes said assembly from said illumination beam path such that no optical element which diffracts or refracts the light replaces the removed assembly in the illumination beam path so that a to-cause said reduction of light intensity incident upon the subject over the field of view occurs because of the removal of said assembly.

Claim 10-15. (canceled)

16. (New) A method of reducing light intensity incident upon a subject over a field of view comprising:

providing a microscope having a non-scanning illumination device for illuminating the subject over the field of view by directing light along an illumination beam path through a main objective of said microscope or in a region of a main objective of said microscope;

providing a plurality of optical components which includes an assembly of optical elements in said illumination beam path which diffract or refract the light,

removing said assembly from said illumination beam path such that no optical element which diffracts or refracts the light replaces the removed assembly in the illumination beam path

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so that a reduction of light intensity incident upon the subject over the field of view occurs because of the removal of said assembly.